

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 ACDA-05

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P R 301117Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3612

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJECT: MAJOR FIGHTING BREAKS OUT IN THE INTERIOR OF ANGOLA

1. ON MAY 28 FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN A SEVERAL SMALL TOWNS IN THE CUANZA NORTE DISTRICT, ABOUT 100-150 MILES NORTHEAST OF LUANDA. SCORES OF WHITES WERE FORCED OUT OF THEIR HOMES IN CAXITO AND DROVE TO LUANDA ON THE EVENING OF MAY 28 TO DEMAND PROTECTION FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

2. ACCORDING TO THESE REFUGEES AND MILITARY SOURCES THE FIGHTING WAS BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA AND WAS VERY INTENSE. FIGHTING WAS CONFIRMED IN CAXITO, BULA ATUMBA, QUIBOXI, MABUBAR, QUITEXE AND THE LARGE EASTERN CITY OF MALANGE. THE USE OF MORTARS, BAZOOKAS AND ROCKETS WAS REPORTED, AND SEVERAL PEOPLE SPOKE OF HEAVY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CASUALTIES. NO FIGURES WERE MADE AVAILABLE.

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3. THE SCENE OF THE FIGHTING IS THE "DEMBOS" AREA, THE INTERFACE

OF MPLA'S AND FNLA'S TRIBAL GROUPS AND THE LOCALE OF MUCH OF THE FIGHTING DURING THE 14 YEAR COLONIAL WAR. THE REGION NOW CONTAINS MPLA'S MAIN MILITARY BASE, AT PIRI, AND IS DOTTED WITH NUMEROUS GARRISONS OF BOTH FORCES, AS WELL AS A FEW LUCKLESS PORTUGUESE TROOPS. OUTSIDE OF LUANDA THE DEMBOS IS THE MOST VOLATILE REGION OF ANGOLA AND WILL LIKELY BE A FOCAL POINT OF ANY CIVIL WAR BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA. THE TOWN OF CAXITO SEEMS TO BE THE STRATEGIC KEY TO THE CONTROL OF LUANDA. BOTH FNLA AND MPLA'S MAIN MILITARY BASES ARE LOCATED NORTH OF CAXITO AND THEY MUST FUNNEL ALL TROOPS AND SUPPLIES DESTINED FOR LUANDA THROUGH THAT CITY. THE GROUP THAT CONTROLS CAXITO CAN EFFECTIVELY STOP MOST OF ITS ADVERSARIES' SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS FROM REACHING LUANDA.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT MPLA HAS FORCED FNLA OUT OF CAXITO ITSELF AND THAT FIGHTING IS CONTINUING IN THE ENTIRE REGION. THERE IS NO RPT NO DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LUANDA. PORTER

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